

an Army veteran. He was a person of great compassion, and sometimes it was overshadowed by things that he was interested in.

But I will say this, that the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) will be long remembered for all the things that he did in Pennsylvania and for his legacy and there will be a better transportation system in this great country. And that is absolutely essential to our economic progress.

Mr. MASCARA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to one of the finest sons of Pennsylvania: Chairman BUD SHUSTER.

BUD, your commitment and vision has reshaped our national landscape from the local level to the national level.

In 1995, when I took the oath of office and won a seat on the T&I Committee, you were beginning your 12th term as a Congressman and first year as Chairman of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Little did I realize that under your leadership the Committee would become the most productive Congress has ever seen. A large measure of your success can be attributed to your fair treatment and respect for the minority members of the Committee.

We as a nation are extremely lucky to have had you working to build the Transportation and Environmental infrastructure of our nation. Because of your efforts, I do not believe the American people will ever again accept inadequate funding for our Waterways, Railways, Airways, and Highways.

Personally, I want to thank you for helping with many projects in my district. I am particularly grateful for your visit to my district to view the efforts being made to complete the Mon-Fayette and Southern Beltway Transportation Projects. Once completed, this project has the economic potential to revive the economy for the hard working men and women of southwestern Pennsylvania.

It has been an honor and pleasure to work with you on the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. Although I am certain you are looking forward to other pursuits, you will be sadly missed by me personally and your colleagues on the Committee.

As you plan for your future, let me assure you that you have a friend in FRANK MASCARA. I wish you the best of everything.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks about the retirement of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Pennsylvania?

There was no objection.

#### CONSUMER ONLINE PRIVACY AND DISCLOSURE ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join in the remarks of my colleague. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) has been very fair and worked on transportation not only, obviously, in Pennsylvania but all over the country. His presence will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today, though, to talk about a bill I just introduced, the Consumer Online Privacy and Disclosure Act.

Unprecedented numbers of American consumers are flocking to the Internet to transact business and tap the nearly limitless informational databases that are available. The explosion in Internet usage, however, is not without its problems.

Unlike shopping in a mall or browsing through a library where individuals travel anonymously through the merchandise racks and library stacks, the Internet is becoming less and less anonymous. Direct marketing firms are now trying to identify individuals as they surf the Web to isolate where they visit and what they are viewing.

This new data collection practice is most often described as Internet profiling. Internet profiling describes the practice of joining a consumer's personal information with that of his or her Internet viewing habits. To develop this detail profile, a "persistent cookie" must be attached to the consumer's cookie as they move through a Web site.

A persistent cookie is a small text file copied for varying lengths of time to consumers' computers to track their movements while they are online. It is almost like somebody following you on the street, Mr. Speaker; and we have protections against that.

My legislation would prohibit Internet Service Providers (ISP) and Web site operators from allowing third parties to attach these persistent cookies to a consumer's computer without his or her knowledge and consent. And that is the biggest purpose. If someone wants to give their consent, then that is their business.

For example, we have these grocery cards all over the country that gives us a discount. We understand that by taking that discount that Safeway or Kroeger's or someone else is actually seeing what we buy at the grocery store. We agree to that in a way.

The legislation requires the Federal Trade Commission, the FTC, to promulgate rules specifying that all operators of a Web site or online service provide a clear and conspicuous notice of their privacy policy in clear, non-legalistic terms.

The bill also requires a Web site or online service to provide consumers with an option to prevent the use of their personal information for any activity other than the particular transaction. And finally, the privacy policy must clearly state how any informa-

tion, collected information will be shared or transferred to an external company or third party.

While my legislation gives consumers more information and control over how they use the Internet, I have also included a provision that will hold e-commerce companies to their privacy policies.

With insolvency of many dot-com companies, oftentimes the only tangible asset left to satisfy creditors is a consumer's transaction and personal information.

The global use of the Internet is beneficial only so long as the information traveling through cyberspace remains private. Consumers will pull back from this burgeoning information and commerce tool if they believe their privacy is being invaded.

While I understand there are many differing approaches to the use of Internet privacy, I believe this legislation addresses a critical component of Internet privacy debate; and I look forward in working with this Congress, Mr. Speaker, also to make sure that our constituents have that privacy that they expect and also that they will think they have.

#### THE THREE R'S PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SMITH of Washington. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to come before the Chamber today to talk about what is the most important issue facing our country today and certainly in the future, education: How can we prepare our children to become adults with the skills and the knowledge that they need to succeed and compete in the world today. It is a challenge that we are presently not meeting to the degree that we should, and it starts with K-12 education.

Right now we are losing too many students before they even make it through high school, too many students who are not developing the skills and the learning experiences that they need. How can we go about fixing that problem?

Well, for the most part, this is a local issue. This is something that States, school districts and local communities are going to be the primary drivers on in terms of fixing the problems, investing the resources and making the decisions. And I think we should keep that in mind, as the United States Congress, that we want to make sure that we empower the locals to do the job that they are in the best position to do.

But the Federal Government does have a role. There is a lot of people that say that the Federal Government does not have any business being involved in K-12 education because it is a